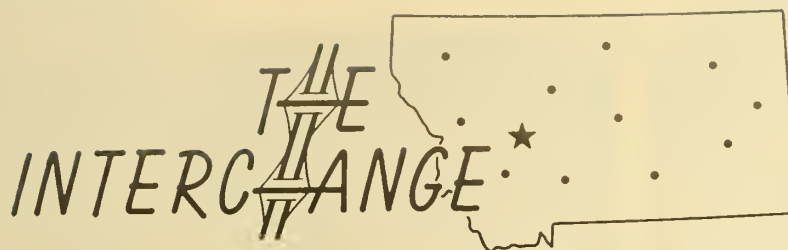


54,76  
H3I  
987  
Jan



JANUARY, 1987

## DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS EMPLOYEE'S NEWSLETTER



*HIGHWAY SNOWPLOWS haven't seen much action because of the mild winter so far, but highway conditions may get rougher as the Legislature deals with important budget issues.*

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The past year was a difficult one — budget cuts, the loss of funding for the Reconstruction Trust Fund (RTF), layoffs, and uncertainties about federal funding contrasted with one of the busiest construction seasons on record.

At the same time, but often unnoticed, we made real progress in our efforts to deliver a better level of service to the public — our number one goal. It is a tribute to the employees of the Highway Department and the can-do attitude that despite the bad news, we ended up doing a good job of meeting our responsibility to the people of Montana.

1987 may prove even more difficult. The 50th Legislature will determine whether we restore the RTF and other cutbacks. The Congress will decide whether the federally-funded construction program will move forward. It is uncertain at this time when and what decisions will be made.

But, we should and can, I believe, remain optimistic. Not an optimism based on false hope, but on the recognition that the Department can provide a highway system that will carry us into the 21st century equal to or better than our sister states, if given the tools.

Look what we've done in the past year — let the last contract on the interstate system, purchased and put into full operation the Computer-Aided Design and Drafting (CADD) system, moved a significant number of primary miles from the poor to fair category to the good to excellent (700 miles since 1983), met our letting schedule in almost all cases, delivered one of the highest levels of maintenance per dollar compared to surrounding states and increased our ability to enforce our GVW responsibilities.

That is not everything we did, but, again, another year of good solid accomplishments. If what happens with the Legislature and Congress in 1987 is based on what we did in 1986, optimism is clearly justified.

Your work and dedication to public service make that optimism possible. Thanks. And best wishes to you and your families in the new year.

*Gary J. Weeks*



**OUTSTANDING!** Fourteen highway employees received Outstanding Performance Awards July 23 in Helena. Governor Schwinden and Director Wicks presented the awards to: (l to r) **Glenn Tonkin**, Assistant Chief of the Right-of-Way Bureau; **Phil Howeth**, Design Detailer in the Bridge Bureau; **Kim Hahn**, Draftsman in the Traffic Unit, all from Helena.

**Marjorie Blewett**, Training officer from Helena, with Director Wicks (right); Governor Schwinden presenting to **Paul Bianchi** of the Great Falls Lab (below); **Drew Livesay**, Chief of the Purchasing and Inventory Bureau in Helena (lower right). . .







*Gary Gilmore, Butte District Construction Supervisor (left); Bob Fischer, Butte Utility Agent. . .*



*Donna Zook (above), Administrative Assistant in the Equipment Bureau in Helena, with Governor Schwinden; Kenneth Neumiller (below) with Governor Schwinden and Director Wicks. . .*



*Bob Rask, the Physical Testing Supervisor in the Materials Bureau in Helena. . .*



*Director Wicks congratulates Charles "Bud" Olson, a Designer in the Location and Road Design Section in Helena, while the Governor looks on (left); Art Sarnow, GVW Officer from Libby with Governor Schwinden and Director Wicks (below); and (lower left) Governor Schwinden congratulates Jim Flynn, Butte District Field Project Manager.*



## OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD NOMINEES

These employees were nominated for Outstanding Performance Awards and received a letter of commendation from Director Wicks: Gerald Anders, Richard Anderson, Judy Bauch, Pat Bauer, Keenan Bingham, Mike Buckley, Jim Cloninger, Jack Erickson, Don Fallang, Paul Garrett, Don Harriott, Ted Herman, Norman Hobby, Ralph Kaze, Don Kittelson, Gerald Kuester, Barbara Martin, Gary McKnight, Frank Murphy, Shirley Neuhardt, Nancy Ostle, Ken Rapp, Frank Robinson, Mitzi Rossillon, Ray Schaak, Neale Sikveland, Ken Skoog, Ed Waldhauser, Ray Webb.

## IN MEMORY

Rodney L. Phillips, "Red" to many within the Department, was fatally injured in a vehicle collision September 18, 1986, while returning to Helena after repairing traffic recorders in the Billings and Bozeman areas.

Rodney's employment with the Department began in February 1966 as a Traffic Counter Repair Tech. in the Planning Survey Section of the Engineering Division. As an Instrument Repair Worker III in the Planning and Statistics Bureau of the Program Development Division, he was responsible for maintaining the Department's traffic recording monitors throughout the state. Because of the travel required, Rodney came in contact with and became friends of many of the District people.

Our sympathy is extended to his wife and three children. He will be missed by us all.

—Phil Colbert

## NEW EMPLOYEES

Welcome to our newest employees! Billings: Dennis Emmerick. Bozeman: Gary Abbott. Butte: Martin Leanhart; Eugene Nistler. Glendive: Michael Hansen; James Heikens; Margie Nasheim; Stacy Schmitt; John Woodland. Great Falls: Page Anderson; Joan Rabbitt. Helena: Carrie Larsen; David Lee; Virginia Mueller; Richard Munger; Dick Turner. Missoula: Charles Antos; Tom Marin.



## NEWS FROM GLENDIVA

by Patty Zimmerman

Our congratulations to **Ralph Kaze** and **Gerald Kuester** for being nominated for Outstanding Performance Awards.

**Walt Devoy**, Glendive Right-of-Way Representative is recovering nicely from his heart bypass surgery.

**Tracy Grow**, Glendive mechanic, will hopefully be back up to par after an accident where he nearly lost his thumb.

**Randy Pisk**, Glendive Engineer Tech II, is recovering from an unusual accident that took place on the Sidney-Fairview construction project. Randy had just gotten out of his state pickup when the contractor's crane tipped over. The boom of the crane landed on top of the state pickup, smashing it down to only two feet off the ground. Randy got hit on the head and arm and ended up under the boom. He is doing remarkably well after brain surgery and orthopedic surgery on his elbow.

**Don Stewart**, Miles City Project Manager, and the crew assigned to the Glendive East and West project took part in a challenge softball game against subcontractor, Fisher Sand and Gravel. The highway team experienced the agony of defeat in the first game (the one that counted), but managed to win the two games that followed.

## RETIREMENTS

Recently retiring with over 30 years with the Department were: **Robert D. Montgomery**, Helena, 33 years, 2 months; **Leslie S. "Buck" Harris**, Helena, 32 years, 5 months; **Donald E. Fallang**, Helena, 31 years, 1 month; **Donald G. Mattheisen**, Columbia Falls, 31 years, 1 month; **Paul E. Aicher**, Bozeman, 30 years, 2 months; **William G. Bork**, Boulder, 30 years, 1 month; and **Hugh H. Rogers**, Missoula, 30 years.

Retirees with 20 to 30 years service included: **Gary N. McKnight**, Helena, 29 years, 6 months; **Robert W. Hough**, Billings, 28 years; **Donald D. Favero**, Billings, 27 years, 5 months; **Victor J. Stipcich**, Helena, 26 years, 8 months; **John B. Kelly**, Butte, 26 years, 2 months; **Edward F. Waldhauser**, Billings, 25 years, 2 months; **Raymond Hilt**, Helena, 24 years, 1 month; **Thomas J. Latham**, Cascade, 22 years, 2 month; **Kenneth C. Muggenburg**, Harlowton, 22 years, 2 months; and **Clarence K. Walth**, Helena, 21 years, 8 months.

Other employees who have recently retired include: **William R. Meinhardt**, Billings, 19 years, 9 months; **Richard R. Hoffman**, Helena, 16 years, 1 month; **Jean M. Murray-Gibson**, Helena, 9 years, 2 months; **Charles M. Kimmet**, Havre, 8 years, 1 month; and **Stuart W. Nicholl**, Alberton, 6 years, 7 months.

## INTERSTATE OPENING IN BUTTE

by Karen Ham

The Butte District sends a hearty congratulations to **Paul Aicher** on his retirement June 13. We appreciate Paul's good work in our Bozeman Office and wish him well.

The Butte Urban Concrete Rehabilitation Project was completed on schedule. To meet the October 15 deadline, Acme brought in a second paving machine and additional hauling equipment and worked at both ends, seven days a week. Our construction crews and contractors worked hard at making delays and inconveniences minimal.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held September 18, 1986, for the Elk Park-Bernice project. **Governor Ted Schwinden** and other dignitaries from Butte, Helena and the surrounding area attended.

The Buxton-Butte overlay and the Butte-North Add Two Lanes project also proceeded on schedule. I-15 is now four lanes from Butte to Helena!

---

**Editor's Note:** Astute readers may notice several articles in this *Interchange* were written last summer. An issue was missed. However, the *Interchange* will be back on a quarterly schedule with the next issue, planned for March.

---

## SERVICE AWARDS

Service awards were presented in the last six months to:

30 years: **James Brown**; **Walter Devoy**; **Frank Foltz**; **Ralph Hobbs**; **Ross Johnson**; **Arthur Phipps**; **Kenneth Quale**; **Emil Roesler**; **Hugh Rogers**; **James Sample**; **Robert Swanson**; **Gordon Treftz**; **Robert Wilson**.

25 years: **Eugene Bankey**; **Gordon Garpestad**; **Robert Gilman**; **Ray Grant**; **Walter Havener**; **Carl Hembree**; **Joy Rogge**; **Edward Waldhauser**.

20 years: **Daniel Bartsch**; **Reece Burns**; **David Friend**; **Gordon Gould**; **Ray Halvorson**; **Larry Maier**; **Ronald Myrvik**; **Leonard Olson**; **Bruce Opie**; **James Short**; **Robert Webb**.

15 years: **Harold Alverson**; **Russell Angwin**; **Robert Bakken**; **Jack Barisich**; **John Blacker**; **Norman Brighton**; **Danny Butts**; **Maurice DeDycker**; **Julian Federico**; **Larry Frideres**; **Gary Gilmore**; **Gordon Koterba**; **Leonard Lutey**; **Keith Nelson**; **Michael Nelson**; **Lawrence Parsons**; **Mary Pearson**; **Leroy Peterson**; **James Reynolds**; **Harold Spilde**; **Jerome Teafoe**; **Larry Young**.

10 years: **Gregory Avent**; **Daniel Carpenter**; **Mark Chandler**; **Gordon Charlton**; **Joseph Crocifixso**; **Jay Donley**; **Donald Dusek**; **James Erickson**; **Timothy Fellows**; **Mark Goodman**; **James Harmon**; **William Holland**; **John Huber**; **Rickie Johnson**; **Gary Kalberg**; **Dennis Keaster**; **David Kelly**; **Joseph Kolman**; **Gregory Kovich**; **Richard Lewis**; **William Maloney**; **Benny McKay**; **William Nelson**; **Lars Olsen**; **Floyd Patrick**; **Lorene Patterson**; **Charles Pierce**; **Donald Rexford**; **Jacque Riebe**; **Mark Robertson**; **Mary Ryan**; **Thomas Stroisch**; **James Vinson**; **Dick Walt**; **William Warfield**; **James Williams**.

5 years: **Marcia Ala**; **Alan Aspenlieder**; **Ray Daigen**; **Lynn Dale**; **Edward DesRosier**; **John Ferguson**; **Daniel Hansard**; **Don Harriott**; **Joseph Hauble**; **Ronald Holden**; **Thomas Jonart**; **Drew Livesay**; **Wallace Manzer**; **Jack May**; **Donald McCallum**; **Daniel Moore**; **Richard Rose**; **William Rowley**; **William Salisbury**; **Beverly Schoonover**; **Edward Sommer**; **Randy Stenerson**; **Marlene Swartz**; **John Webster**; **Thomas Wheeler**; **Darrell Zook**.

## IN MEMORY

**P. E. "Peanuts" Thompson, Jr.** died August 29 of a heart attack at age 61, ending a Highway Department career that began in 1946.

During the forty years between his first job as a Missoula surveyor and his last position as Stores Inventory Coordinator, Peanuts witnessed first hand the technological transformation of the Highway Department from what he fondly liked to call "The Department of Mud and Trails," into the \$300 million a year construction and maintenance organization of today.

Peanuts cared deeply about the Department, its people, and its problems. His passing, along with the retirement or death of other Department pioneers, marks the end of an era.

—Drew Livesay

## TRANSFERS

Recent transfers included: Butte: **David Zeigler**, Maintenance. Glendive: **Donald Hambrick**, GVW. Great Falls: **Loyal Babb**, Maintenance; **Dennis Eddlemon**, GVW; **Louise Lineberry**, Construction; **Nancy Ostle**, Maintenance; **Kathleen Quinlan**, GVW. Helena: **Judy Bauch**, Personnel; **Allen Chambers**, Right-of-Way Bureau; **Benjamin Dean**, Materials Bureau; **David Galt**, GVW Division; **Trudi Helvik**, Accounting; **Vernon Jones**, Right-of-Way Bureau; **Michael Lynch**, Materials; **Duane Meiers**, Project Analysis; **William Strizich**, Maintenance Division; **Kathleen Yarnall**, Civil Rights Bureau. Missoula: **Samuel Bartell**, Equipment; **Randall Delude**, Kalispell Equipment; **Russell Whitcomb**, GVW.



## GREAT FALLS DISTRICT NEWS

by Ann Carlson

The first use in Montana of continuous rumble strips on an asphalt surface is a unique feature of the Dutton North and South overlay project.

The contractor welded angle iron and pipe sections to a roller drum, which was then attached to the paver, to create the rumble strips.

**Dan Black**, The MDOH Field Project Manager, reported that during the experimental phase of the project, he saw drivers stop and walk around their vehicles to see what was causing the noise and vibrations.

Eighty friends, relatives, and co-workers of **Glen Brown** recently gathered in Shelby to wish him a happy retirement.

In Glen's 33 years with the Department, he worked in Billings, Missoula, Lewistown, Havre, and Great Falls. He was promoted to Resident Engineer of Bridge in 1970. His last assignment was a big one, the rehabilitation of the Two Medicine Bridge near East Glacier.

## HOLIDAY GIVING

Here's a holiday gift idea you may not have considered: donate eight hours of sick leave credit to the newly established Sick Leave Fund.

By donating to the fund, you make sick leave available to other employees who may suffer extended loss of time on the job and then qualify to use up to 160 hours yourself from the fund.

"Sharing" sick leave credits was authorized by the legislature in 1985 and a committee established rules to implement the program. More information is available from your Personnel Specialist.

The rules also authorize a "direct grant" of up to 40 hours of sick leave from one employee to another. The "direct grant" program has been popular, according to Caleb Mills of the Personnel Division in Helena. But, Mills said, Highway Department employees generally haven't been donating to the Sick Leave Fund.

## DOUBLE PROJECT IN BILLINGS

by Kim Lloyd

Two projects that received attention lately in the Billings area were the Columbus East and West and the Park City West projects. These projects were unique because the same contractor was the successful bidder and worked them as one project. Coordinating and over-seeing the work was a handful for our staff!

The paving was done in just over 2 months on a total of 24½ miles. To accomplish this, the contractor produced 5,000 to 7,000 tons of surfacing material each day. The Highway Department crew was busy just documenting these huge amounts, not to mention keeping track of all the other details.

Along with the paving, slope problems were ironed out and almost 13,000 feet of guardrail were upgraded.

The first Billings District picnic was held on August 2 at the Huntley City Park. Many home-made specialties were brought by those who attended, and District Engineer **Roy Ventura** cooked up some fabulous burgers. After lunch, an action-packed game of volleyball, a horse-shoe tournament, basketball, and softball were enjoyed by over 100 people who attended. In fact, the noon-time picnic continued into the evening! We're looking forward to even more fun next year and plan to make this an annual event.

The Second Annual Lewistown Golf Tournament was held at the Elks Country Club in Lewistown July 26th and 27th. Twenty-seven golfers registered for the tournament and four flights were played.

The winners in the championship flight were **Jay Skoog** and **Jack Walsh**, both from Helena, in first and second place. The first flight winners ended in a tie, with **Joe Braunbeck** of Lewistown and **Ken Skoog** of Helena splitting the honors. **Scott Klimper** of Billings and **Howard Farnes** of Columbus were winners in the second flight. **Thelma Willems** of Helena and **Mary Lou Farnes** of Columbus placed first and second in the ladies' flight.

A barbeque was held Saturday evening for the golfers and service awards for the Lewistown area were presented.

## Buckle – up!

*No he wasn't officer.  
He said he'd rather be  
thrown clear...*



1825 copies of this newsletter were produced at a cost of \$.08 each. Edited and Produced by Carolyn Chaussee and Dennis Unsworth, Information Unit. Phone 444-6200, Helena.

Montana State Library



3 0864 1006 3248 1